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SUBJECT: TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS STATEMENT ON IRAQI
REFERENDUM

The Turkish Foreign Ministry published the following press statement October 17 on the Iraqi constitutional referendum. Informal Embassy translation follows:

Begin MFA press statement. We are pleased that the referendum concerning the new constitution for Iraq was realized in a relatively secure climate, without being subject to widespread acts of terrorism or violence. Yet another stage in Iraq's political transition process has been accomplished. We hope that this will be for the good of all Iraqis.

The most positive aspect of the October 15 referendum may be that it helps the political process reach its natural state in a concrete manner. It will be important from the point of view of the new constitutional order that all Iraqi sectors develop further the political participation and maturity displayed during the referendum as they turn their attention and energy to the general elections to be held in December.

On the other hand, we find it useful to share with international public opinion once again our view that the establishment of an effective and transparent international monitoring mechanism for the elections will make a positive contribution to a successful conclusion of this stage of the political process.

Turkey, an historical friend and neighbor of the Iraqi people, has given priority to establishing close dialogue with all Iraqi sectors without discrimination while sharing its experience with democracy and compromise. With this in mind, Turkey will continue to maintain close contact with all Iraqis, support the political process, and help Iraq reach a bright future in wholeness and unity. End MFA press statement.
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